

2009 Municipal Population Estimates for New Jersey

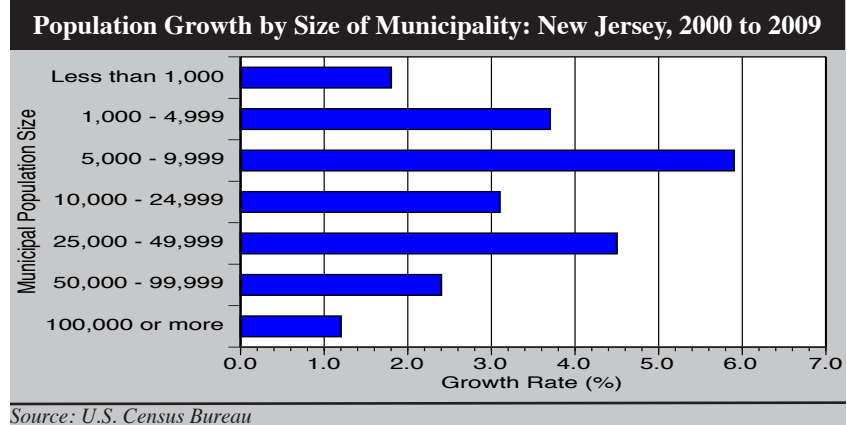
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According to the latest population estimates prepared by the US Bureau of the Census, New Jersey had 8,707,739 residents as of July 1, 2009, up from 8,414,378 on April 1, 2000. Gloucester was the fastest growing county between 2000 and 2009 while Ocean added more population than any other county in the state. An analysis of the state's 2009 county population estimates was published in the April 2010 issue of the New Jersey Economic Indicators. This article presents the 2009 municipal population estimates and population changes during the 2000 to 2009 and 2008 to 2009 periods.

Small Municipalities Grew Faster Than Their Larger Counterparts

When grouped by size, the 64 municipalities with a resident population between 25,000 and 49,999 gained more residents (+96,500) than any other group between 2000 and 2009. However, this group's population growth rate (+4.5%) was second to the 5.9 percent growth experienced by the 143 municipalities with 5,000-9,999 residents. The 153 small municipalities (with 1,000-4,999 residents) also had an above average growth rate (3.7%). Growth rates among large municipalities (with 50,000-99,999 and 100,000+ population) and very small municipalities (with less than 1,000 residents) were relatively slow and below average.

Figure 1



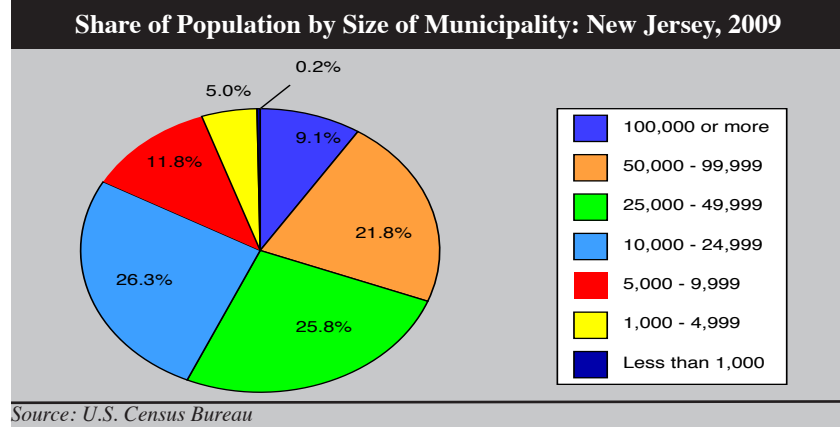
Among the state's 566 municipalities, 410 gained population, 12 had no change, while the other 144 experienced population decline between 2008 and 2009. Since the 2000 Census, resident population has increased in 351 municipalities and declined in 214 municipalities in New Jersey. Atlantic County's Weymouth Township was the only municipality to experience neither an increase nor decrease in population during the 2000-2009 period.

The average population size of a New Jersey municipality increased somewhat from 14,866 in 2000 to 15,385 in 2009. The state's municipal median population was 8,152 in 2009, up from 7,660 in 2000.

Approximately one in eleven (9.1%) New Jerseyans resided in the state's four largest municipalities (with 100,000 resident population or more), as of 2009. Between 2000 and 2009, the combined population of these four large municipalities increased by 1.2 percent — a rate substantially slower than the state's average growth rate (+3.5%). However, this group of large municipalities was the leader for population growth in New Jersey between 2008 and 2009 (+0.7% growth). The other fast growing group during the one-year period was the 25,000-

49,999 size group, which includes 64 municipalities, with an annual growth rate of 0.6 percent.

Figure 2



Franklin and Lakewood Townships Posted the Largest Population Gains

With a net gain of 12,000 residents, Somerset County's Franklin Township led the state's population growth between 2000 and 2009, followed by Ocean County's Lakewood (+11,000) and Jackson (+10,400) townships. Another seven New Jersey municipalities had numeric growth of 5,700 or more from 2000 to 2009. With the exception of Newark (+5,700), they were all suburban townships located mostly in the state's coastal and central counties (Atlantic, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, etc). Together, these 10 municipalities accounted for approximately 29.0 percent of the state's total population gains.

Table 1

Municipalities with the Largest Population Gains: 2000-2009 and 2008-2009					
A. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Gains: 2000-2009					
Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2000-2009	
				Number	Rank
Franklin township	Somerset	50,903	62,903	12,000	1
Lakewood township	Ocean	60,352	71,359	11,007	2
Jackson township	Ocean	42,816	53,191	10,375	3
Egg Harbor township	Atlantic	30,726	40,239	9,513	4
Monroe township	Middlesex	28,016	37,462	9,446	5
Barneget township	Ocean	15,270	22,643	7,373	6
Toms River township	Ocean	89,705	96,945	7,240	7
Woolwich township	Gloucester	3,019	9,469	6,450	8
Manalapan township	Monmouth	33,465	39,390	5,925	9
Newark city	Essex	272,434	278,154	5,720	10

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Municipalities with the Largest Population Gains: 2000-2009 and 2008-2009

B. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Gains: 2008-2009

Municipality	County	Estimates 7/1/08	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2008-2009	
				Number	Rank
Jersey City city	Hudson	239,658	242,503	2,845	1
Bayonne city	Hudson	57,201	58,359	1,158	2
Elizabeth city	Union	124,400	125,285	885	3
Toms River township	Ocean	96,066	96,945	879	4
Paterson city	Passaic	144,961	145,834	873	5
Franklin township	Somerset	62,124	62,903	779	6
Newark city	Essex	277,376	278,154	778	7
Hoboken city	Hudson	40,314	41,015	701	8
New Brunswick city	Middlesex	50,904	51,579	675	9
Monroe township	Middlesex	36,805	37,462	657	10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Some Demographic Shifts Took Place Recently

The majority of the top ten 2000-2009 population gainers were no longer on the list of the top ten for the most current one-year (2008-2009) period, implying that their hefty population growth had occurred earlier in this decade. Somerset County's Franklin Township, Middlesex County's Monroe Township, Ocean County's Toms River Township, as well as Newark were the exceptions – population growth in these four municipalities was still substantial between 2008 and 2009. Hudson County's Jersey City was the new leader in population growth between 2008 and 2009, with a net gain of 2,800 resident population, followed by Bayonne (+1,200) of the same county. Hudson County's Harrison and Jersey City, and Ocean County's Lakewood Township also registered population gains of at least 1,000 from 2008 to 2009. For the first time in this decade, the top ten municipalities with the largest numeric gains include significantly more urban places (7 cities) than suburban townships (3).

Eight Municipalities Each Lost More Than 3,000 Residents

Four municipalities in Hudson County (Union, Kearny, Bayonne and North Bergen Township), three in Essex County (East Orange, Irvington Township and Bloomfield Township) and one in Passaic County (Paterson) experienced population declines of 3,000 or more between 2000 and 2009. The most severe population loss was found in Union (-5,100). Cape May County's Lower Township (-2,700) and Essex County's West Orange Township (-2,400) rounded out the state's list of top ten municipalities with the largest 2000-2009 numeric losses.

Only two of these ten municipalities (North Bergen Township and Lower Township) were among the leading numeric losers during the 2008-2009 period, as population losses have slowed in recent years in the other eight municipalities. Camden County's Camden (-700) was the leader for population decline in the state between 2008 and 2009, followed by Cape May County's Ocean City (-200).

Table 2

Municipalities with the Largest Population Losses: 2000-2009 and 2008-2009**A. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Losses: 2000-2009**

Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2000-2009	
				Number	Rank
Union City city	Hudson	67,096	61,945	-5,142	1
East Orange city	Essex	69,829	65,152	-4,677	2
Irvington township	Essex	60,730	56,102	-4,628	3
Kearny town	Hudson	40,513	36,544	-3,969	4
Bloomfield township	Essex	47,633	43,758	-3,875	5
Bayonne city	Hudson	61,842	58,359	-3,483	6
Paterson city	Passaic	149,222	145,834	-3,388	7
North Bergen township	Hudson	58,091	54,912	-3,179	8
Lower township	Cape May	22,945	20,239	-2,706	9
West Orange township	Essex	45,007	42,561	-2,446	10

B. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Losses: 2008-2009

Municipality	County	Estimates 7/1/08	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2008-2009	
				Number	Rank
Camden city	Camden	79,519	78,790	-729	1
Ocean City city	Cape May	14,863	14,702	-161	2
Willingboro township	Burlington	36,415	36,284	-131	3
Lower township	Cape May	20,369	20,239	-130	4
Gloucester township	Camden	64,801	64,700	-101	5
Cherry Hill township	Camden	70,893	70,799	-94	6
Vernon township	Sussex	24,919	24,830	-89	7
Freehold township	Monmouth	34,674	34,589	-85	8
Pennsauken township	Camden	35,041	34,959	-82	9
North Bergen township	Hudson	54,986	54,912	-74	10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population More Than Tripled in Woolwich Township Since 2000

With a 214.0 percent growth rate, Gloucester County's Woolwich Township was the fastest growing municipality in New Jersey from 2000 to 2009, followed by Morris County's Riverdale Borough (+125%)¹ and Hunterdon County's Lebanon Borough (+88%).

Resident population grew by at least 44.0 percent in ten New Jersey municipalities in the past nine years. These top ten fastest growing municipalities were scattered in seven counties: three in Burlington, two in Gloucester and one each in Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean and Warren counties.

Table 3

Municipalities with the Highest Population Growth Rates: 2000-2009 and 2008-2009**A. Top 10 Fastest Growing Municipalities: 2000-2009**

Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2000-2009	
				Percent	Rank
Woolwich township	Gloucester	3,019	9,469	213.6%	1
Riverdale borough	Morris	2,498	5,632	125.5%	2
Lebanon borough	Hunterdon	1,065	2,007	88.5%	3
Upper Freehold township	Monmouth	4,282	6,877	60.6%	4
Mansfield township	Burlington	5,090	8,000	57.2%	5
East Greenwich township	Gloucester	5,441	8,317	52.9%	6
Barnegat township	Ocean	15,270	22,643	48.3%	7
Delanco township	Burlington	3,237	4,777	47.6%	8
Lopatcong township	Warren	5,765	8,383	45.4%	9
Hainsport township	Burlington	4,126	5,951	44.2%	10

B. Top 10 Fastest Growing Municipalities: 2008-2009

Municipality	County	Estimates 7/1/08	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2008-2009	
				Percent	Rank
Riverdale borough	Morris	5,235	5,632	7.6%	1
East Grenwich township	Gloucester	7,762	8,317	7.2%	2
Tavistock borough	Camden	30	32	6.7%	3
Swedesboro borough	Gloucester	2,251	2,372	5.4%	4
Matawan borough	Monmouth	8,749	9,101	4.0%	5
Woolwich township	Gloucester	9,123	9,469	3.8%	6
Garwood borough	Union	4,390	4,530	3.2%	7
Secaucus town	Hudson	15,281	15,768	3.2%	8
Bradley Beach borough	Monmouth	4,840	4,994	3.2%	9
Woodland Park borough	Passaic	11,813	12,179	3.1%	10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

A New List of Fastest Growing Municipalities for the 2008-2009 Period

Population growth has recently slowed in all but two municipalities on the state's 2000-2009 ten fastest growing list. Consequently, the ten growth leaders list over the most recent one-year (2008-2009) period contains almost all new entrants except Morris County's Riverdale Borough and Gloucester County's East Greenwich Township. The duo still led for the rate of growth (+7.6% and +7.2%, respectively) between 2008 and 2009. Two municipalities from both Gloucester and Monmouth counties, and one each from Camden, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties rounded out the top ten fastest growing municipalities in 2008-2009, all having annual growth rates of three percent or more.

The Most Rapidly Declining Municipalities Were Found in Cape May County

Cape May County's Lower and Dennis townships had the steepest rates of population decline (11.8% and 11.5%, respectively) in the state between 2000 and 2009. Five more municipalities in Cape May County also experienced rapid population declines. These Cape May County localities were joined by two municipalities in Hudson County and one in Essex County to constitute the top 10 list of municipalities with the highest rate of population decline since the 2000 Census. Population declines in Cape May County municipalities resulted mainly from natural decreases (more deaths than births) and net out-migration (fewer people moved in from abroad and other counties than moved out).

Table 4

Municipalities with the Highest Rate of Population Decline: 2000-2009 and 2008-2009					
<i>A. Top 10 Rapid Declining Municipalities: 2000-2009</i>					
Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2000-2009	
				Percent	Rank
Lower township	Cape May	22,945	20,239	-11.8%	1
Dennis township	Cape May	6,492	5,758	-11.3%	2
East Newark township	Hudson	2,377	2,126	-10.6%	3
West Cape May borough	Cape May	1,095	985	-10.0%	4
Stone Harbor borough	Cape May	1,128	1,016	-9.9%	5
Kearny town	Hudson	40,513	36,544	-9.8%	6
West Wildwood borough	Cape May	448	405	-9.6%	7
Upper township	Cape May	12,115	11,030	-9.0%	8
Glen Ridge borough	Essex	7,271	6,657	-8.4%	9
Cape May city	Cape May	4,034	3,669	-8.3%	10
<i>B. Top 10 Rapid Declining Municipalities: 2008-2009</i>					
Municipality	County	Estimates 7/1/08	Estimates 7/1/09	Change: 2008-2009	
				Percent	Rank
Ocean City city	Cape May	14,863	14,702	-1.1%	1
Camden city	Camden	79,519	78,790	-0.9%	2
Branchville city	Sussex	821	815	-0.7%	3
Union township	Hunterdon	6,245	6,204	-0.7%	4
Lower township	Cape May	20,369	20,239	-0.6%	5
Wildwood city	Cape May	5,243	5,210	-0.6%	6
Alpha borough	Warren	2,391	2,377	-0.6%	7
Oxford township	Warren	2,586	2,571	-0.6%	8
Fieldsboro borough	Burlington	563	560	-0.5%	9
Upper township	Cape May	11,089	11,030	-0.5%	10
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>					

Cape May County still dominated the list of fast declining municipalities from 2008 to 2009. The ten rapidly declining municipalities for the 2008-2009 year include four localities in Cape May County, two in Warren County and one each in Burlington, Camden, Hunterdon and Sussex counties. Each has lost at least 0.5 percent of their residents from 2008 to 2009. Ocean City's (Cape May County) 1.1 percent decline during the last year was the most rapid.

Newark Remains the State's Most Populous Municipality

With a moderate yet steady population growth so far in this decade, Newark City's most populous status in the state remained unchallenged in 2009. Newark's 278,200 current population ranked 68th among the nation's 276 incorporated places with 100,000 or more population. Hudson County's Jersey City (ranked 78th nationally), Passaic County's Paterson (ranked 161st nationally) and Union County's Elizabeth (ranked 195th nationally) also had more than 100,000 residents in 2009.

Resident population has increased during the 1980s and 1990s, albeit slowly, in three of the state's four largest urban centers. Newark was the only exception – its population declined in each decade between 1950 and 2000. However, Newark has gained population since the 2000 Census, along with Jersey City and Elizabeth. Paterson was the state's only large city to experience population decline in the first decade of this century.

Table 5

New Jersey's Ten Most Populous Municipalities: 2000 and 2009

Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/09	Rank	
				2000	2009
Newark city	Essex	272,434	278,154	1	1
Jersey City city	Hudson	240,055	242,503	2	2
Paterson city	Passaic	149,222	145,834	3	3
Elizabeth city	Union	120,568	125,285	4	4
Edison township	Middlesex	97,597	99,736	5	5
Woodbridge township	Middlesex	97,203	97,917	6	6
Toms River township	Ocean	89,705	96,945	7	7
Hamilton township	Mercer	87,109	90,605	8	8
Trenton city	Mercer	85,397	83,242	9	9
Brick township	Ocean	76,119	78,809	12	10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Middlesex County's Edison and Woodbridge townships, Ocean County's Toms River and Brick townships, as well as Mercer County's Hamilton Township and Trenton made up the rest of the state's ten most populous municipalities. Most of these cities and townships have been among the top municipalities since 2000 with the exception of Brick Township. Brick Township ranked twelfth in 2000, but by 2009 its population growth had surpassed Camden and Clifton (ranked 10th and 11th in 2000, respectively). Most of the ten large municipalities experienced population growth, albeit modest, in this decade. With moderate population declines, Paterson and Trenton were the exceptions. Together, the top ten's share of the state's total population declined somewhat to 15.4 percent in 2009, from 15.7 percent in 2000.

There were nine large cities with one million or more population in the US in 2009. New York City continued to be the nation's most populous incorporated place with 8,391,900 residents in 2009, followed by Los Angeles City (population: 3,831,900). They were the same nine largest cities in the nation since 2000. However, Phoenix (Arizona) replaced Philadelphia as the nation's fifth largest city in 2007, and San Antonio (Texas) moved up from ninth place in 2000 to seventh place in 2009, surpassing Dallas (Texas) and San Diego (California).

Among the nation's largest 276 incorporated places, 53 experienced population declines from 2000 to 2009 while 223 gained population. Frisco City (Texas) was the fastest growing large place (+203.9%) in this decade, and was also the growth leader in 2008-2009 (+6.2%). Although its population grew by 5.4 percent between 2008 and 2009, the City of New Orleans (Louisiana) suffered the most severe population decline (-26.8%) during the nine year (2000-2009) period due, at least partly, to the effect of hurricane Katrina.

Ten Municipalities Had Less Than 500 Residents

New Jersey's least populated municipality — Teterboro Borough, located in Bergen County — had only 17 residents in 2009. Three other municipalities had less than 100 residents: Camden County's Pine Valley (population: 24) and Tavistock (population: 32) boroughs, and Sussex County's Walpack Township (population: 39).

Six other municipalities (two each in Cape May and Ocean counties, and one each in Bergen and Monmouth counties) with population counts ranging from 222 to 455 rounded out the state's ten least populous municipalities list. No other municipality had less than 500 residents in 2009.

Table 6

New Jersey's Ten Least Populous Municipalities: 2000 and 2009					
Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/09	Rank	
				2000	2009
Teterboro borough	Bergen	18	17	1	1
Pine Valley borough	Camden	20	24	2	2
Tavistock borough	Camden	24	32	3	3
Walpack township	Sussex	41	39	4	4
Cape May Point borough	Cape May	241	222	5	5
Loch Arbour village	Monmouth	282	273	6	6
Rockleigh borough	Bergen	391	388	8	7
Harvey Cedars borough	Ocean	359	397	7	8
West Wildwood borough	Cape May	448	405	11	9
Mantoloking borough	Ocean	423	455	10	10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Guttenberg Town Was the State's Most Densely Populated Municipality

With 1,174 persons per square mile as of 2009, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation. Population density in New Jersey ranged from less than two persons per square mile in Sussex County's Walpack Township to almost 55,000 persons per square mile in Hudson County's Guttenberg Town. The state's seven most densely populated municipalities (with at least 20,000 persons per square mile) included five in Hudson County, and one each in Bergen and Passaic counties.

The six most sparsely populated municipalities in New Jersey still had less than 30 persons per square mile as of 2009. They include three municipalities in Burlington County, and

one each in Bergen, Camden and Sussex counties. Population density in the nation as a whole was 86.8 persons per square mile, as of 2009.

Table 7

New Jersey's Most and Least Densely Populated Municipalities: 2000 and 2009

Municipality	County	Persons per square mile		Rank	
		2000	2009	2000	2009
Guttenberg town	Hudson	56,012	54,939	1	1
Union City city	Hudson	52,984	48,924	2	2
West New York town	Hudson	44,995	45,767	3	3
Hoboken city	Hudson	30,240	32,150	4	4
Cliffside Park borough	Bergen	23,848	23,834	5	5
Passaic city	Passaic	21,804	21,535	7	6
East Newark borough	Hudson	23,330	20,866	6	7
Pine Valley borough	Camden	21	25	561	561
Bass River township	Burlington	20	20	562	562
Teterboro borough	Bergen	16	15	563	563
Woodland township	Burlington	13	14	564	564
Washington township	Burlington	6	7	565	565
Walpack township	Sussex	2	2	566	566

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Data Availability

The 2000-2009 municipal population estimates for New Jersey, including population density data, are available online at the Labor Planning and Analysis Web site http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/dmograph/est/est_index.html. For information regarding population estimates for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388, Telephone: 609-292-0076, e-mail: sywu@dol.state.nj.us.

Footnote: ¹Incorrect 2006-2009 estimates for Riverdale Borough were suspected. A request for correction was submitted to the US Census Bureau.